

## JOHN CLARENCE AND ELIZABETH McCOARD WHITING

John Clarence Whiting was born 7 April, 1868 to Edwin and Mary Cox Whiting at Springville. Attended BY Academy.

Elizabeth McCoard was born 17 November, 1868, to William and Hannah Miller McCoard at St. Louis, Missouri. Received schooling in elementary schools in Utah, and went to Ohio to complete her education. Taught school for many years.

They were married 12 June, 1895. They

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filled an LDS mission in Montana 1898-1900. John Clarence died 17 August 1953. Elizabeth McCoard Whiting died 3 October, 1952.

Mr. and Mrs. Whiting were truly stalwarts of their church and community. Mr. Whiting's parents had joined the Church in its earliest days, and had experienced the joys, persecutions, and hardships of being hated "Mormons." His father became one of the Prophet Joseph Smith's bodyguards and was a colonel in the Nauvoo Legion. His mother came to Utah with a handcart company when just a girl. She taught school to help raise her family of seven. The large Whiting family spread out from Springville and settled in Mapleton.

John Clarence spent most of his early life in the mountains of that vicinity where he and his brothers operated a sawmill. He loved to fish and hunt. An ardent love for God's great out-of-doors was a motivating factor all his life.

He "loved the rocks and rills—the woods and templed hills."

Harrison R. Merrill's lovely poem, "Oh God Let This Be Heaven" might have been written for him.

Elizabeth McCoard's childhood was very different. Her father was a successful businessman. When she was very young, the family came to Utah to visit a relative who had joined the Mormons. Seeing promising business opportunities in Utah, they returned after the railroad was completed and made their home in Salt Lake City, later American Fork, then Provo.

When Elizabeth was 18 years old, she went to Ohio to complete her education. Upon returning to Utah, her greatest desire was to teach school in a Mormon community where she hoped that through the children she could help the parents see how wrong their religious beliefs were. Instead

## HOW BEAUTIFUL UPON THE MOUNTAINS

she became a member of the Church in 1895.

Mr. and Mrs. Whiting's first home was in Hobble Creek Canyon. In March 1902, they moved to Wallsburg with their three children. They soon became a very happy, active part of that community. Their musical and dramatic ability kept them in constant demand. Their service to the Church was untiring. Mr. Whiting served as Sunday School superintendent, class leader, and first counselor to Bishop George P. Garff. He was present at the time Bishop Garff was accidentally shot and afterwards bore testimony to the bishop's miraculous healing. He also served in many civic positions.

Mrs. Whiting served as MIA president, Sunday School teacher, and was the only organist in Wallsburg at that time. While her husband operated his ranch, she taught school.

During their happy years in Wallsburg, two sons and one daughter were born.

In the spring of 1912, the Whitings purchased the William Wright ranch located at the junction of the Wallsburg Creek and Provo River and became members of the Charleston Ward.

Volumes could be written about life on the "old ranch" which was already rich in its tradition as being the "friendly stopping place" for man and beast. It was a child's paradise. The river, teeming with trout; the bass pond full of frogs, bass, and mosquitoes; mysteriously beautiful hills to climb; and the majesty of Mount Timpanogos towering protectingly above. All these, coupled with plenty of good hard work, made it unforgettable.

The long winter evenings were memorable, with mother at the organ, father with his harmonica, and the children gathered round singing the beautiful songs of the day.

These parents shared and taught their children a deep appreciation of good literature. No day was ever too dark or lonely for them, because they loved to read and there was always material at hand.

These years were filled to overflowing with accomplishment, joy, and sorrow. Mr. Whiting established a purebred Hereford cattle business. His stock ranked with the best in the state. Both Mr. and Mrs. Whiting were devoted to the Church, and they continued to serve as before. Mrs. Whiting served 14 years as president of the Relief Society, traveling the four miles from home

## CHARLESTON BIOGRAPHIES

to Church by horse and buggy. During this time they lost two sons. Edward L., their baby, who was four, and William E., a student at Brigham Young University, who was 18 years old.

Six children were born to this union.

Children include: Wayne Clarence Whiting, Nellie Whiting, William Edwin, Hannah, Frank M., and Edward L.